

HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2004  
UTILITIES COMMUNITY ROOM  
640 N. MESA DRIVE  
6:00 P.M.

**ATTENDANCE:**

City of Mesa

Brian Allen  
Randella Bluehouse  
Sharon Corea  
David Luna  
Judy Taussig  
Mary Berumen, Staff Liaison  
Ruth Giese, Staff Liaison  
Karen Kurtz

City of Chandler

Mary P. Gerlach  
Joel Munter  
Ana Regaldo  
Leah Powell, Staff Liaison

Town of Gilbert

José Franco  
John Meza  
Tami Small

City of Phoenix

Rory Gilbert  
R.J. Shannon  
Ron Williams, Staff Liaison

City of Scottsdale

Mary Gendron  
Carol Padwe  
Enid Steiden  
John Tutelman

City of Tempe

Gail Paredes-Ewfn  
Rosa Inchausti, Staff Liaison

Members of the Public

Theresa Brice-Heames

## **Action & Discussion Items**

### **1. Introductions and welcome**

Mary Berumen welcomed those present and discussed how it is the third year that the regional human relations boards and commissions have been meeting. She further stated that the boards and commissions have come together to share a vision for promoting diversity awareness in our communities. Ms. Berumen then welcomed David Luna of the Mesa Human Relations Board to introduce the Mesa Civil Rights History Video.

### **2. Presentation of Mesa Civil Rights History video and discussion of how our communities' social history and current changing demographics are driving our approach to creating an inclusive community.**

Participants viewed the Mesa Civil Rights video and broke into smaller groups to discuss the following topics:

#### **1. What did you see in the video that reminds you of your community's history?**

Participants discussed how regionally their respective cities have similar social histories. It is important to share stories and have them recorded, although for some, it is difficult to discuss their past because they faced discrimination and other struggles. It was also noted that the film acknowledged Native American history in the region, which is often forgotten.

#### **2. How does your community's social history impact your community today?**

Participants discussed how demographic shifts are changing the way cities need to respond to residents. Arizona's de-segregation history was also discussed. Arizona schools were de-segregated before the Supreme Court mandated it by its ruling in Brown vs. Board of Education. Arizona has the capacity to continue to move forward in other areas because of its history.

#### **3. In what ways can or does your Human Relations Board/Commission contribute to efforts to create a more inclusive community?**

Participants shared information about current programs in their cities. Tempe conducts a diversity dialogue series and recently completed its strategic plan to understand emerging issues. Gilbert recently held a race forum and also conducts a dialogue circles to better understand its community. Phoenix has a monthly lunchbox dialogue series that is very successful. Participants also shared materials that are translated in Spanish to better serve their Spanish-speaking residents. Mesa and Phoenix have also held meetings at various locations to encourage residents in different neighborhoods to attend meetings.

### **3. Development of a Pubic Information Plan and Joint PSA.**

John Tutleman of the Scottsdale Human Relations Commission asked that everyone review the recommendations that were created at the Chandler meeting. Board & Commission members can select their top three recommendations and provide them to each staff liaison. Staff liaisons can then forward recommendations to Rosa Inchausti in preparation for the May 2004 regional meeting that is scheduled to be hosted by the City of Tempe.

**4. Hear items from citizens present.**

There was no public comment.

**5. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items and general information.**

The next Regional Board exchange is scheduled to be hosted by the City of Tempe in May 2004.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted By:

---

Mary Berumen,  
Diversity Office Director